Trade with China

31. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judging from the recent visit of Mr. Zhu Ronje to India, China is eyeing the huge Indian market and its potential for trade;

(b) whether the balance of trade between the two countries continues to be in favour of China even though India's trade with China is showing substantial growth; and

(c) the details of Government's plans to compete with China in both bilateral and international trade in view of the fact that China has now entered the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir. The present level of India-China bilateral trade is not commensurate with the potential, given the size of the two countries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been the constant endeavour of the government to make Indian exports competitive so as to compete with China in the world market as well as increase exports to China.

Export of wheat and sugar

32. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stock position of wheat and sugar for export to foreign countries;

(b) the details of quantity of wheat and sugar Government propose to export during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): (a) No separate stocks of wheat and sugar are maintained exclusively for export of wheat and sugar.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum and value of wheat and sugar that will be exported during the current financial year as the exports would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

(c) The export of sugar is allowed freely without any quantitative ceiling with effect from 1.4.2001. The export of wheat is also allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by Directorate General of Foreign Trade and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). For the year 2001-2002, an export ceiling of 5 million tonnes of wheat has been announced.

Dispute Settlement Mechanism in WTO

33. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has urged the World Trade Organisation to ensure a just and fair dispute settlement mechanism so that the multilateral trading system should be rule oriented and not power oriented;

(b) whether some industrialised countries are putting pressure to bring in non-trade related issue within the discipline of WTO which is one of the causes of worry for the third world countries;

(c) if so, the reaction of the WTO in this matter; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government to face such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. India stands for a rule based multilateral trading system which needs to be just and fair and should be rule oriented and not power oriented.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government is working with other like minded